

scientific study of language" spoke out against this policy. That meeting adopted the following resolution and because of the importance of this issue to our national security, I ask that it be printed here.

Whereas linguists, translators, and interpreters serving at the Defense Language Institute have made important contributions to the nation's defense since the Institute's inception;

Whereas language specialists fluent in Arabic and other critical languages are especially vital to U.S. national security at this time;

Whereas the General Accounting Office reports that there is currently a serious shortage of such linguists in the military;

Whereas the military's recent dismissal of highly trained and highly skilled language specialists who are gay or lesbian presents a significant risk to national security;

Whereas sexual orientation is irrelevant to one's job performance, and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is unjust;

Therefore be it resolved that the Linguistic Society of America make known its opposition to the U.S. military's policy of dismissing linguists, translators, interpreters, or other members of the armed forces on the basis of their sexual orientation.

#### COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE COVERAGE OF CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION ACT OF 2003

##### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Comprehensive Insurance Coverage of Childhood Immunizations Act of 2003. This important legislation will improve our nation's efforts to immunize all children against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Vaccines have made dramatic improvements in the lives of children and adults in the last century. Scourges such as polio and small pox have been eradicated thanks to advancements in vaccine research.

Childhood vaccinations prevent nine serious infectious diseases. Thanks to immunizations, children no longer have to suffer from the dangers of polio, measles, diphtheria, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), rubella (German measles), tetanus, hepatitis-B, or Hib (the most common cause of meningitis).

Immunizations are not only sound medicine, they're sound public health policy. More than \$21 is saved for every dollar spent on the measles/mumps/rubella vaccine. Almost \$30 is saved for every dollar spent on diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis vaccine.

Unfortunately, many children do not have access to these life-saving vaccines. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nationwide vaccination coverage levels decreased from 73.2 percent in 1999 to 72.8 percent in the year 2000. In fact, one third of two-year-old children are under-immunized, and in some cities and urban areas, more than 50 percent of children are not fully immunized.

Part of the problem is that health insurance coverage of immunization is spotty at best. According to the Institute of Medicine Report "Calling the Shots," private health insurance immunization coverage varies widely by type

of plan as well as by vaccine. Enrollment in a private plan does not guarantee that immunizations will be provided.

Although 28 states have enacted legislation that would require private plans to cover immunizations, plans governed by ERISA are not subject to these requirements. The IOM Report recommends that all health insurance plans, including ERISA self-insured plans, should offer first-dollar coverage for childhood vaccines recommended in the harmonized immunization schedule.

The Comprehensive Insurance Coverage of Childhood Immunization Act of 2003 would address this problem by requiring ERISA governed health plans and plans covered by the Public Health Services Act to cover vaccines for children under 18 years. Vaccines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule must be covered.

The federal government provides this benefit for its own workers, and twenty-eight states have enacted laws to require state-regulated plans to cover vaccines. Unfortunately, ERISA plans do not have to comply with state laws. This legislation will ensure that all children, regardless of the type of insurance they have, will receive life-saving vaccines. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting immunization coverage for all children.

#### HONORING MATT RYAN

##### HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I served with Matt Ryan in the Pennsylvania General Assembly for 24 years.

Having worked with him all those years, never once did I question his dedication to his job or his commitment to making life better for all of Pennsylvania's 12 million citizens.

We worked together on a lot of things, but I'll always remember very fondly the work we did together on the Capitol Preservation Committee.

Time and time again, I've heard tourists who have visited dozens of state capitols say that Pennsylvania's is the most beautiful.

Matt and I shared a vision of restoring that beautiful, century-old building to its original grandeur.

It was a project that took a lot of years, and a project that will never really be complete.

But it was a labor of love for us.

It goes without saying that restoring the capitol was only one of Matt's many accomplishments.

Matt served in the General Assembly for more than four decades, and he seemed like a man who was destined to lead.

He was always fair and always compassionate.

He was good at building consensus, even on difficult issues.

And he was a man of his word.

As the longest-serving Republican Speaker of the House since the Republican Party was founded, he left his mark on this Commonwealth as much as any Pennsylvanian since Ben Franklin.

He was a valuable partner, a respected leader, and a very, very good friend.

I'll miss him.

#### COMMENDING SILVER BELL CLUB, LODGE 2365 OF POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THE UNITED STATES

##### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the Silver Bell Club, Lodge 2365 of the Polish National Alliance of the United States, will be hosting the 30th Annual Hank Stram-Tony Zale Sports Award Banquet on May 19, 2003, at the Radisson Hotel in Merrillville, Indiana. Twenty outstanding Northwest Indiana High School athletes will be honored at this notable event for their dedication and hard work. These outstanding students were chosen to receive the award by their respective schools on the basis of academic and athletic achievement. All proceeds from this event will go toward a scholarship fund to be awarded to local students.

This year's Hank Stram-Tony Zale Award recipients include Lyndee Lee Arnold of Highland High School, Jennifer Barta of Hammond Morton High School, Jared Byczko of Merrillville High School, Lauren Curosh of Whiting High School, Brittany Drobac of Hobart High School, Lori Granich of Bishop Noll High School, Regina Gregorczyk of Andean High School, Derrick Holeman of Hammond Gavit High School, Biljana Jasnic of Portage High School, Jovan Jęflich of Valparaiso High School, Brad MacFarlane of Griffith High School, Michael Marszalek of Lowell High School, Sean O'Drobinak of Crown Point High School, Tim Piatek of Munster High School, Chad Pruzin of Crown Point High School, Tiffany Redlarczyk of Lake Central High School, Maggie Reichersamer of Hammond High School, Jason Renn of Valparaiso High School, Todd Schafer of Wheeler High School and Kari Schmidt of Hammond High School.

The featured speaker at this gala event will be Hall of Fame defensive lineman Dan Hampton. Hampton was a menacing, yet versatile, defender who served 12 seasons aggressively protecting the line of scrimmage for the Chicago Bears. An All-American out of the University of Arkansas, he was selected by the Bears in the first round of the 1979 National Football League Draft. Hampton's contribution to the defense as a rookie paved the way for his Hall of Fame career. He recorded 70 tackles, two sacks, two fumble recoveries, and three passes defended in his first campaign, then eclipsed that performance in his sophomore season by recording 73 tackles and leading the Bears with 11.5 sacks. He also earned his first of four Pro Bowl appearances. Dan Hampton will probably be remembered best as a huge part of the Bears' 1985 defense that allowed just 198 points in 16 regular season games, and 10 points in three playoff games, including a dominating performance over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XX.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Silver Bell Club, Lodge 2365 of the Polish